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the doorway are stilted, after the Anglo-Saxon manner. For other illustrations of this ancient church see previous volumes.

101. Ancient font of yellow sandstone preserved in the Cathedral of Killaloe. From the outline of this font, the Greek form of the cross on it, and the style of the foliated ornament covering it, a portion of which is in low relief, and the remainder "gravé en creu," I believe we may regard it as 10th century work, if not older.

**XXI.—NOTE ON THE INVESTIGATION OF THE PRE-CELTIC EPOCH IN IRELAND.** By HYDE CLARKE, Corresponding Member of the American Oriental Society, Member of the German Oriental Society, Member of the Philological Society of Constantinople, and late President of the Academy of Anatolia, &c.

[Read November 11, 1867.]

IN begging acceptance by the Royal Irish Academy of an abstract of my paper on the Iberians in Asia Minor, published by the Ethnological Society, I am desirous of enlisting the interest of the Academy in the extension of this branch of study. William Von Humboldt proved the existence in Spain of the Iberian race, which he identified with the present Basques. I have pursued the like investigation for Asia Minor, determining the existence there of Iberians, who preceded the Greeks, and showing their identity with the Iberians of Spain. I am now applying this conjoint evidence to the investigation of the Iberian names in Italy and Greece, completing the chain of Iberian occupation in southern Europe.

There remains the question of Iberian extension in Europe beyond the limits of Aquitania, and none can work this better than the members of the Royal Irish Academy.

The Iberians in Asia Minor, Italy, and Spain, presented examples of communities in a high state of culture at an early epoch; and the question is, what influence they exercised beyond their present known boundaries by colonization or by commerce? So long as they were undisturbed by the pressure of invading nations—first the Greeks, afterwards the Latins and the Celts—a race which had spread itself through the great southern peninsulas and the islands would continue to advance, particularly by sea.

Thus they would be led to Britain and to Ireland. I adhere to the belief that the Silures were the remnant of the dominant Iberians in Britain. I expect that your researches will not only prove an ancient Iberian colonization of Ireland, but the existence there of descendants of such race in the present day.

If this point can be determined, it will offer a key to many of the difficulties of ancient Irish history; it will exhibit an ancient and anterior civilization yielding to subsequent invasions as in other parts of Europe; it will show us the Iberians there, as elsewhere, seeking

the gold diggings of the island, and furnishing ornaments of that metal conformable to their state of culture. In my view it is to the nearer Iberians, rather than to the distant Phœnicians, we are to look for the chief pioneers of commercial intercourse in those epochs.

To arrive at a sound judgment on this subject, a series of researches is required.

One most important branch is the collection and analysis of the topographical names in Ireland, to be obtained from the Ordnance Survey, and other authorities. Every name should be investigated, even the names of fields. Undoubtedly this topographical nomenclature will be found to be almost without exception Hiberno-Celtic, and much of it modern; but in investigation it will yield results illustrating the Celtic occupation, and even in that respect the anterior possession by another race.

I have observed it is a law in topographical nomenclature that where a race, altogether foreign in language, enters a country, it applies a system of terms to the settlements of the formerly existing rejected race. This is what we observe in England, where words purely English or Anglo-Saxon give tens of thousands of evidences of Roman occupation, even to the names of wells. This nomenclature follows a law conforming to that applied by the Germanic population to the Roman colonies on the Rhine, and their outliers. Thus such a term as Cold Harbour will be found extensively distributed in England, the Netherlands, and Western Germania. The same law is found in Asia Minor in its application by the Turks to the sites of Greek cities and establishments, where we have *AK HISSAR* and *ESKİ HISSAR*, representing the White Chester and Old Chester of the Anglo-Saxons.

The words must be carefully analyzed and classified, compounds being entered under each of their elements. The classification will include the names of each class of object, as rivers, hills, towns, homesteads, fields, wells, &c., and it will distribute each root into its own class. It is then necessary to eliminate all the modern names, and carefully examine what are recognized as more ancient names. All names occurring since the English Settlement must be excluded, and the ancient residuum carefully studied. It will most likely be found that certain terms occur more or less in groups, and the details of situation will afford ground for identification.

It will most probably result that there is a residuum, containing first Celtic words, expressive of anterior settlement; and, secondly, of words doubtfully Celtic, or other than Celtic.

In my opinion the names of the great rivers in Ireland, claimed as Celtic, are not Celtic, but conform to the names of rivers found in the non-Celtic or Iberian area. The determination of this point is very desirable; for it has generally been assumed that the names of the great rivers of north-western Europe are Celtic; but the explanation of the names of the rivers of Spain, Italy, and Asia Minor, has to be settled

on such hypothesis as a basis, which, in our present knowledge, is inconsistent.

The ethnological evidence constitutes another head of the investigation. There are diversities in the physical aspect of the Irish population; and it is well worthy of inquiry how far any portion conform with the type of the neighbouring Basques. It will be desirable for persons having examined the local population to visit the Basques, and again return to compare their observations; and if Basque co-operation can be obtained it is desirable. I had long hoped to have taken charge of such an investigation myself.

Not only the Spanish Basque country, but the French Basque country, should be examined, and also the mixture of races on the frontiers. If members of the Iberian race be found in Ireland, they may not conform to a general, but a special or local Basque type.

If this investigation succeeds, it strengthens the tests for Celtic, and it may result in the discovery of the pre-Iberian type in Ireland.

It is very desirable the attention of the Academy should be directed to the Ligurians. These are a race ancient in Europe, and which has been little investigated. Although long since divested of political importance, it still affords a considerable portion of the population of South-eastern France, Switzerland, and Italy. I have thought I found resemblances to some exceptional Irish types among the Ligurians.

With regard to existing Iberians, I may observe that I regard the Greeks of Asia Minor as descendants, not of the Hellenic population, but of the pre-Hellenic, or barbarian population.

The formation of Ireland, cut up by bays and estuaries, is very favorable for the preservation on its wide coast of remnants of ancient populations. These are preserved even on restricted areas, and in very small numbers, where geographical or other limitations check intermarriage. Where intermarriage takes place, the majority will outgrow and replace the minority, even if it be the conqueror. Such has been the fate of the Lombards in Italy, while the *Siete Comuni* still attest a Teutonic origin. Such has been the fate of the Goths in Spain, of Franks and Burgundians, and of the *Varegues* of Russia, whom I determined to be the *Varini* of Tacitus, and consequently that tribe most nearly allied to the English. (*Angli et Varini. Tacit. Germania.*)

Ireland is rich in archæological remains, and should any evidence be obtained linguistically from topographical nomenclature, or ethnologically from living races, each kind of testimony will throw light on the other. It is the accumulation of facts alone which can give us a true insight into the obscure portions of the history of men. If nothing else is obtained from these researches, we must get better data for the occupation of Ireland by the Hiberno-Celts, and we may succeed in elucidating the comparative history and chronology of Western Europe, of anterior races, of the Iberians, Ligurians, Celts, and of those great displacements which, affecting Europe from one end to the other, in themselves represent the waves of migration which have moved the mighty empires of the East.